

The Monument Honoring Women Veterans of Maine

The Monument Honoring Women Veterans respectfully honors and celebrates the women who have served in served in all the past, present and future U.S. Military conflicts. This memorial is to be located within the newly conceived Maine Memorial Park on the State of Maine's East Campus. It is situated high on the site and offers views to the West Campus and Capital Building, Kennebec River and the entire Maine Memorial Park below.

The monument incorporates educational and inspirational elements to provide a multitude of experiences throughout the seasons. The major components that contribute to the overall experience are multiple human scaled figurative cast bronze sculptures with a flag, granite walls with text inscriptions, earthed landforms, landscape plantings and a simple lighting scheme. A 40' diameter central monument space is recessed down into the existing slope and surrounded and embraced by two tree and spring bulb laden landforms. Tall upright granite slabs emerge from the landforms and intersect an ADA accessible path that brings visitors down into the central monument space. The text inscribed on the granite slabs are poetic in nature and are able to be read by visitors both entering and leaving the monument. The text people read while entering the memorial educates and sets the stage for people's experience while in the monument. Leaving the monument visitors are able to read messages that are inspirational in nature and references the future.

The cast bronze sculptures located within in the central monument space depict an inspirational "scene" yet to be determined. The sculptures are placed at grade so that people are able move amongst them and feel like they are part of the "scene." People's awareness of the sculptures is revealed slowly as they progress down the path. A small slit in the entry granite wall provides the first glimpse to the sculptures 4' below the entrance. Visitors obtain additional filtered views through the trees planted on the landforms. The sculptures are finally revealed in their entirety only once visitors move completely past the landforms and into the central monument space. A long bench in the space offers the opportunity to sit and view that sculptures or the long view down the slope and across to the Capital.

9026 spring bulbs will be planted on the earthen mound associated with the entrance in reference to the 9026 women in Maine who have served in the Armed forces to date. As the number of women increase, so will the number of spring bulbs purely by the plants natural spreading tendencies.

The overall experience of the monument is one of quiet reflection and contemplation coupled with honor, pride and celebration. The components of the monument and the spaces developed allow people to either be alone or engage with the monument and a larger group. This monument brings pride to the women in Maine who have served their country.